

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations**

**AUXILIARY SERVICES**

**Dental Screening**

It shall be the policy of the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools Office, under the aegis of the Bishop, that a student enrolled in kindergarten or ninth grade in a Catholic elementary or secondary school of the Diocese complete the dental screening requirements of the state of Iowa. IAC-641-51.1(135) It shall be the duty of the school officials to ensure that a valid certificate of dental screening or certificate of dental screening exemption is on file for each kindergarten and ninth grade student enrolled.

Dental screening is a visual assessment, is non-invasive and non-diagnostic. Dental screening for elementary school students (K-8) may be performed by a licensed dentist, licensed dental hygienist, licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or a licensed nurse. Dental screening for high school students (9-12) shall be provided by a licensed dentist or a licensed dental hygienist.

The student or student's parents shall submit a valid Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of dental screening (See Regulation 713.1) to school officials, which shall be kept on file during the student's enrollment. If the student has been enrolled or enrolls in another Iowa school, the dental screening record should be transferred to the new school. Written permission to transfer dental screening records to another school is not required.

An exemption from dental screening may be granted for financial hardship for anyone who is unduly burdened by the cost of a dental screening. The certificate of exemption for financial reasons (See Regulation 713.2) must attest that the screening would cause a genuine financial burden to the family and must be signed and dated by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant or nurse.

An exemption for religious reasons is allowed by law; however, since there is no legitimate religious exemption for Catholics, Catholic students may not claim such an exemption. Persons of other faiths who claim religious exemption must have the exemption form notarized.

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